

CHAPTER TWO

MODULE 4

PURSUIT DRIVING

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GOAL

Develop the ability to accomplish the pursuit driving task by understanding the risk of the pursuit driving activity and by being able to physically negotiate pursuit driving situations.

CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 Identify factors that impact on initiating a vehicle pursuit.
- 4.2 Identify factors involved when conducting a vehicle pursuit.
- 4.3 Identify factors that would warrant the pursuing officer, or a supervisor, making the decision to terminate a vehicular pursuit.
- 4.4 Identify factors that impact on the termination of a pursuit: suspect voluntary or involuntary stopping.
- 4.5 Identify factors to be considered when a law enforcement vehicle is involved in the termination of a vehicular pursuit using various physical intervention techniques (roadblocks).
- 4.6 Identify considerations involved in post-pursuit reporting.
- 4.7 Demonstrate the ability to conduct a pursuit.
- 4.8 Identify post-litigation preparation considerations.

PURSUIT DRIVING MODULE

OVERVIEW

Law enforcement officers will continually face a number of potentially deadly situations throughout their careers. The type of deadly situation that comes to mind most often is confronting an armed suspect. However, operating a law enforcement vehicle in a pursuit situation exposes the officer, and the public, to a far greater danger. The deaths and injuries of officers resulting from vehicle collisions outnumber those that result from armed confrontations.

There is nothing glamorous or desirable about being involved in a vehicular pursuit. Officers must view pursuits for what they are, potentially life threatening situations. The pursuit, when compared to other types of law enforcement activities, carries a greater risk for injury to the public, the violator, and the officer. Despite these risks, the nature of law enforcement work often requires officers to engage in pursuits in order to effectively enforce the laws.

A pursuit is defined as "an event that is initiated when a law enforcement officer, operating an authorized emergency vehicle, gives notice to stop (either through the use of visual or audible emergency signals or a combination of emergency devices) to a motorist whom the officer is attempting to apprehend, and that motorist fails to comply with the signal by either maintaining his/her speed, increasing speed or taking other evasive action to elude the officer's continued attempts to stop the motorist." A pursuit is terminated when the motorist stops, or when the attempt to apprehend is discontinued by the officer or at the direction of competent authority.

Operating a law enforcement vehicle in a pursuit situation is a highly stressful and demanding experience. Pursuits involve unique responsibilities and critical decision-making requirements. During the duration of a pursuit, officers must rely on their maturity, patience, experience and training while being governed by state law and agency policy.

Pursuit driving is not racing. It is not a contest between the violator and officer. There is no room for machismo, egotism or thrill-seeking officers. Good pursuit drivers are made through effective training that emphasizes the skills to conduct an effective pursuit.

This training program will provide guidance for the officer from the initiation of a pursuit through its conclusion. The safety of the public, the violator, and the officer will be emphasized as being paramount of the total pursuit situation.